(b) the purpose of visit, the names of countries visited and the expenditure incurred on the visit of each minister during the above period;

(c) the names of Government officials and others who accompanies the Ministers abroad and purpose of their visit and the expenditure incurred on their each visit; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check and minimise such visits and to reduce the expenditure incurred at the expense of the tax-payers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Visits to foreign countries are undertaken by Ministers when it is essential for the due discharge of funcitons relating to their Departments. Also, guidelines exist for ministerial visits abroad which, inter-alia, require full justification for the trip, adequate spade-work being done prior to the visit and clearance by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Prime Minister.

Measures to upgrade machinery of detection and investigation

1173. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that both the training and equipments of the police force in India are inadequate to meet the problems that are daily growing consequent to spread of terrorism, sophisticated transnational crime and smuggling and surreptitious trading in lethal weapons; and

(b) what precise measures are in hand to upgrade the training and equipments and improve machinery of detection and investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects under the Constitution, it is for the respective State Governments to upgrade and modernise their police forces. However, to supplement the State Government's efforts, the Government of India provides financial assistance under the Scheme for modernisation of state police forces, by way of ad-hoc grants and by providing guidance on the various aspects of police functioning. Further, the Tenth Finance Commission has allocated substantial amounts to the State Governments for upgrading police infrastructure. Training to senior police officers is provided by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, the National Institute of Criminology and forensic Science and the National Crime Records Bureau.

Re-Demarcation of Indo-Nepal Border

1174. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been made for the re-demarcation of Indo-Nepalese border along the State of Bihar and recover the five thousand hectares of encroached Indian land from Nepal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) There is a long-standing problem of border demarcation with Nepal in the West Champaran District of Bihar involving Susta and Narasahi villages. This area has been surveyed on a number of occasions in 1817, 1886-88, 1895-99, 1902 and finally in 1930-31. This matter has been discussed on a number of occasions with the Government of Nepal, at various levels. Recently, this matter was discussed during the Working Group

meeting of the Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee held in New Delhi from 22-25 May 1995. It is again being discussed in the 18th Joint Technical Indo-Nepal Boundary Committee Meeting being held at Kathmandu from 1-4 August, 1995.

नार्थ-ईस्ट एक्सप्रैस का विलम्ब से चलना

1175. **श्री नरेश यादव:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 365 दिनों में से लगभग 360 दिन नार्थ-ईस्ट एक्सप्रैस (5621/5622) अनियमित चलती है; और

(ख) इसके क्या कारण हैं और इसमें सुधार हेतु सरकार कौन से उपाय कर रही है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी०के० जाफर शरीफ): (क) और (ख) जी नहीं। बहरहाल, विभिन्न कारणों यथा खतरे की जंजीर का खींचा जाना, शरारती गतिविधियों, दुर्घटनाओं, बंदों/आंदोलनों, रेल इंजन की खराबियों, सिगनल और यातायात संबंधी खराबियों ग्रिड संबंधी खराबियों आदि के कारण 5621/5622 नार्थ ईस्ट एक्सप्रैस का समयपालन संतोषजनक नहीं रहा है।

इस गाड़ी के चालन में सुधार करने के लिए रेलवे द्वारा सभी प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं जिसमें गहन नज़र रखना, चौबीसों घंटे निगरानी करना, वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों द्वारा फुट प्लेट निरीक्षण करना, मंडल और मुख्यालय स्तर पर दैनिक समय पालन बैठकें आयोजित विशेष समयपालन अभियान चलाया जाना और चल स्टॉक रेल पथ और सिगनल प्रणाली आदि जैसी आधारभूत संरचना को सुदृढ़ किया जाना चाहिए।

Deficit in Oil Pool Account

1176. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Restructuring Group of his Ministry has suggested "Rationalisation of prices of Kerosene and Liquified Petroleum Gas" in phases in view of the mounting deficit in the oil pool account as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 17th July, 1995;

(b) what are the reasons for the deficit in the oil pool account;

(c) whether it is a fact that at present price of petrol is more than double the high speed diesel price; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken for the last four years to keep the oil industry pool account inflows and outflow in balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Report of the Restructuring Group in awaited.

(b) Deficits have arisen in the pool account because the sales realisation from the products did not fully cover the costs incurred.

(c) Ex-storage prices of petrol and diesel are given below:

Product	Unit	Price
Petrol (MS-87)	KL	Rs. 12844.34
Diesel (HSDO)	KL	Rs. 5717.28

(d) The position of the oil pool account is periodically reviewed and corrective action taken through appropriate price adjustments.

रेलगाड़ियों का विलम्ब से चलना

1177. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अधिकांश रेलगाड़ियां विलम्ब से चलती हैं; यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है; और

(ख) इस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए सरकार द्वारा कौन से कदम उठाये गए हैं और इनके परिणाम कब तक आने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी०के० जाफर शरीफ): (क) जी नहीं। तथापि, दुर्घटनाओं, आंदोलनों/बन्द, धुंध/खराब मौसम, खतरे की जंजीर खींचने, उपस्करों की खराबी, ग्रिड की खराबी आदि जैसे विभिन्न कारणों से कुछ गाड़ियां कभी-कभी देरी से चलती हैं।